Availability of fodder under Intensive Milk Development Project in Kangra

†2735. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangement to provide fodder for she calves of the jersey breed belonging to selected cattle-breeders under the Intensive Milk Development Project running in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the number of she-calves in the age group of 4 to 12 months for which fodder has been made available in the veterinary hospital, Lambagram, Tehsil Jaysinghpur, District Kangra Dwar from 1st April, 2006 to 31st December, 2006;

(c) the reasons for not providing fodder for she-claves during this period; and

(d) the arrangement made by the department to make up affected physical development of mal-nourished she-calves due to unavailability of fodder on determined time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) This Department is not implementing any Intensive Milk Development Project in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. However, a project under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensive Dairy Development Programme" was approved for four districts including Kangra in 2004-05. Under this ongoing project, no funds were allocated for providing feed to she-calves, as there was no request in this regard from the State Government.

(d) No such report has been received in this Department from State Government so far.

Compensation to farmers of border area

2736. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal/scheme to provide adequate compensation to the farmers of border area particularly from Kathua to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rajouri in J & K, whose agricultural land has been rendered unfit for agricultural purpose;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Free inputs and services to farmers under extension system

2737. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fundamental limitation in the current extension system affecting the crop growing relates to distribution of free inputs and services to farmers;

(b) if so, whether this does not result in dependency on Government and mostly farmers to look to extension for a "hand out" rather than a reliable source of technology and information; and

(c) what steps have been taken to streamline the system so that small and marginal farmes get full information preferably in their mother tongue and thus free inputs and services become easily available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Agricultural research is largely in the Governmental sector. Typical extension activities include information dissemination, various forms of research-extension-farmer interactions, training and demonstration. Most of these are in the nature of services and only demonstration has an element of inputs. So far, the Government has been providing these services largely free. Any change in the approach will also require consideration of the capacity of farmers to pay for such services.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation have launched several schemes/initiatives to support State's efforts for providing improved extension services to farmers. These include:

(i) "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" scheme based on Agriculture Technology Management Agency